

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 /066 W
----- 104202

R 210251Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 245

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0050

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 1162: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: ASEAN AND THE PROPOSED FOUR POWER GROUPING

1. INDONESIAN CONSUL GENERAL ROEDJITO BROUGHT UP
FOUR POWER GROUPING (AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, INDONESIA AND
PAPUA NEW GUINEA), PROPOSED BY LATE PRIME MINISTER KIRK,
AS MATTER OF KEEN INTEREST TO HIS GOVERNMENT DURING LONG CON-
VERSATION TODAY. HE SAID INDONESIA IS VERY EAGER THAT PNG SHOULD
BE A STABLE AREA, AND REFERRED TO RECENT AUSTRALIAN PLANTATION
TAKEOVER BY A GROUP OF TRIBESMEN AS SOMETHING TO
WATCH CAREFULLY (SEE SEPTTEL). HE BELIEVES SUCH A FOUR-POWER
GROUPING IS IN KEEPING WITH PNG'S ROLE AS BRIDGE BETWEEN
SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PACIFIC.

2. I ASKED HIM IF PNG IS LIKELY TO JOIN ASEAN. HE REPLIED,
WITH CONSIDERABLY LESS ENTHUSIASM, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS
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WILLING TO HAVE PNG AS A MEMBER, BUT AN AFFIRMATIVE DECISION

WOULD DEPEND ON OTHER MEMBERS. HE SAID THERE HAD BEEN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS, AND HE THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT AN INVITATION WOULD EVENTUALLY BE EXTENDED. HE THEN TURNED BACK TO FOUR POWER GROUPING, SAYING HE BELIEVED IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT FOR THIS ORGANIZATION TO COME INTO BEING.

3. HE STATED, WITH CONSIDERABLE ANNOYANCE, THAT THE AUSTRALIANS BELIEVE THAT INDONESIA WANTS TO TAKE OVER PNG. HE SAID NOTHING IS FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. THE ONLY INTEREST INDONESIA HAS IN PNG IS ITS STABILITY, AND THAT IS WHY INDONESIA IS URGING THE FORMATION OF THE FOUR POWER GROUP.
OLMSTED

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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